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# Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Midwest Area Information Office

Agricultural Marketing Service  
536 S. Clark St., Chicago 5, Ill.

March 3, 1954

## Prices

Index of Prices Received by Farmers month ended February 15 declined 4/10ths of one percent. Parity Index (prices paid, interest, taxes, wage rates) was unchanged from January level. Prices Received down 2 percent from year earlier. Compared January 15, prices lower on commercial vegetables, dairy products, fruits, poultry, eggs; higher on meat animals, cotton and wheat. Parity Index 1 point above February 15, 1953 first time since September 1952, that Index above same month year earlier.

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## CCC

Commodity Credit Corporation offers following commodities for sale in U.S. during February: Nonfat dry milk solids, butter, cheddar cheese, crude and refined cottonseed oil, raw linseed oil, peanut, dry edible beans (large lima), flaxseed, barley, rye (for feed only), corn, grain sorghums (for feed only), wool, and seeds of principal grasses and cover crops. For export sale, following commodities are offered: crude and refined cottonseed oil, raw linseed oil, peanuts, wheat, corn and large lima beans.

CCC ON DECEMBER 31, 1953 HAD \$5,664,581,000 INVESTED IN PRICE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES, CONSISTING OF \$3,046,632,000 OUTSTANDING LOANS, \$2,617,949,000 INVENTORIES COMMODITIES ACQUIRED UNDER SUPPORT PROGRAMS. CORPORATION SHOWED NET LOSS OF \$116,101,694 FIRST SIX MONTHS CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, AGAINST LOSS OF \$61,146,000 ENTIRE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1953.

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## DAIRY

Sales of butter by USDA to Army under program offering butter to Army at 15¢ per lb. now amount to 18,163,499 pounds.

USDA last week offered to buy 750,000 pounds processed Cheddar cheese, 900,450 pounds nonfat dry milk solids; also asked for bids to repackage 720,000 pounds CCC-owned butter. Products for distribution to school lunch programs, public institutions.

Average 1953 prices received by farmers for whole milk by states ranged from low of \$3.43 per 100 pounds in Minnesota to high of \$7.04 in Florida.

During week ended February 26, USDA bought 10,129,052 pounds of butter, 8,709,871 pounds of cheese, and 13,883,091 pounds of nonfat dry milk solids to support price of milk to dairy farmers.

USDA ESTIMATES BUTTER PRODUCTION FOR WEEK ENDED FEBRUARY 25 AT 28,800,000 POUNDS, UP 2 PERCENT FROM PREVIOUS WEEK, 11 PERCENT OVER YEAR EARLIER. INCREASES OF 2 PERCENT IN EAST NORTH CENTRAL AND WEST NORTH CENTRAL REGIONS AND 7 PERCENT IN WEST OFFSET DECREASES IN OTHER AREAS.

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## DROUGHT RELIEF

During week ended February 19, USDA shipped 12,195 tons of cottonseed feed, 27,458 tons of corn, 326 tons of feed wheat and 206 tons of oats out of CCC stocks into drought-stricken areas. Cumulative totals: 567,856 tons of cottonseed feed, 525,209 tons of corn, 40,706 tons of wheat and 213,237 tons of oats.

Three Colorado counties in region damaged by recent dust storms were added to designated drought area last week. Number of counties in drought area now totals 720 - nearly one-fourth of all counties in U.S. Farmers in area can buy government-owned feed at reduced prices.

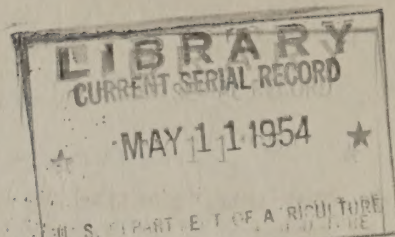
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## POULTRY

Agriculture Secretary Benson has again warned poultry producers to expect lower prices this year if they don't cut production. Latest USDA report shows number heavy breed poult hatched in commercial hatcheries during January 41-percent over year earlier, and 90 percent larger for light breeds. Number heavy breed turkeys tested in January for inclusion in breeding flocks up 5 percent from last year. Lighter breeds tested 17 percent less, but up 44 percent from July 1953 through January 1954.

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#### GRAINS

Farm wheat acreage allotments for 1954 are being increased by USDA to provide for more Class II Durum wheat, grown primarily in Minnesota and Dakotas. Class II Durum wheat is used exclusively to produce semolina from which macaroni, spaghetti, and similar food products are made. Objective is a '54 seeding of about 3,000,000 acres. Increase is in addition to national allotment for 1954-crop wheat, set previously at 62 million acres.

U.S. during period February 17-23 sold 1,454,000 bushels of wheat under International Wheat Agreement, bringing sales for 1953-54 year to 79,424,000 bushels.

Grain receipts at principal markets week ended February 25, compared with year earlier in parenthesis: wheat 5.5 million (3.1 million); corn 6.1 million (3 million); oats 1 million (736 thousand); barley 2½ million (1.2 million).

USDA ANNOUNCED THAT FARMERS WHO UNDERPLANT THEIR 1954 CORN ACREAGE ALLOTMENT BY NOT MORE THAN 10 PERCENT WON'T BE PENALIZED FOR SUCH UNDERPLANTING IN ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY FUTURE FARM ALLOTMENTS.

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#### SUGAR

Refiners and importers distributed about 138,000 tons of sugar during week ended February 20, around 10,000 tons more than same week year ago. Cumulative total since January 1, 881,000 tons raw sugar, compared with about 1,000,000 tons during comparable period last year.

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#### FATS AND OILS

USDA reports soybean prices reached a high for the season in February. Exports so far in 1953-54 have been a record, but appear to be tapering off.

Use of edible vegetable oils and butter in the U.S. in October-December was running above year earlier, but lard down somewhat. Total use up 8 percent.

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#### NUTS

USDA reports the supply of peanuts on January 1, excluding stocks on farms and shelled oil stock, totaled 1,110 million pounds of equivalent farmers' stock, up 11½ percent from a year earlier. Of total, 938 million pounds held as farmers' stock peanuts, 13 million pounds as roasting stock and 159 million pounds as shelled edibles.

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U.S. EXPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WERE 8 PERCENT HIGHER IN DECEMBER 1953 THAN IN NOVEMBER, BUT 7 PERCENT UNDER DECEMBER 1952. FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER, EXPORTS WERE \$1,454 MILLION, 1 PERCENT OVER THE \$1,440 MILLION VALUATION FOR SAME MONTHS IN 1952.

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#### LIVESTOCK, MEATS AND WOOL

Livestock slaughtered under federal inspection in January included 1,541,041 cattle, 546,056 calves, 4,712,157 hogs and 1,241,150 sheep and lambs, compared with 1,313,249 cattle, 453,075 calves, 6,267,077 hogs and 1,288,675 sheep and lambs in January 1953.

Federally inspected packers during week ended February 27 produced 312 million pounds of meat, 11 percent less than preceding week and 1 percent less than year ago. Suspended slaughtering operations on February 22 (Washington's birthday) resulted in smallest production of year.

U. S. wool production in 1953 totaled 271 million pounds, 2 percent above 1952 output, largest since 1948. Less shorn, more pulled wool produced than in 1952.

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# Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Midwest Area Information Office

Agricultural Marketing Service  
536 S. Clark St., Chicago 5, Ill.

March 10, 1954

## FARM INCOME

Preliminary USDA estimates show realized net income of farm operators in 1953 was 12.8 billion dollars, 5 percent under 1952, 13 percent under 1951, 4 percent above postwar low of 1950. Farmers' cash receipts from marketings last year now estimated at 31 billion dollars, 4 percent under 1952. Of total cash receipts, 17.2 billion dollars from livestock and livestock products, 13.8 billion from crops.

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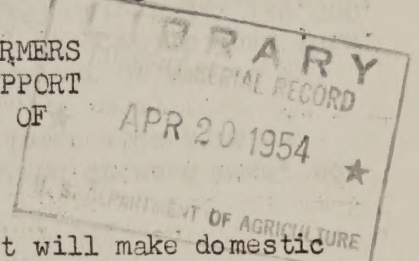
## STORAGE

New farm storage aids announced by USDA include (1) special re-sealing program to encourage farmers to hold supported 1953-crop stocks of seven grains (corn, wheat, oats, barley, grain sorghums, rye and flaxseed) on farm another year instead of turning over to CCC this summer. Re-seal program on 1952 crops covered only corn, wheat, oats; (2) extension to June 30, 1955 of loan programs which enable farmers to borrow big part of cost of building or buying more storage space and drying equipment.

A national grain storage conference will be held at Omaha, March 18, to review whole storage situation, make plans to combat space shortage.

TABULATION SHOWING WHETHER BIG OR LITTLE FARMERS  
RECEIVE MOST BENEFIT UNDER PRESENT PRICE SUPPORT  
PROGRAMS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST FROM OFFICE OF  
INFORMATION, USDA, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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## DAIRY

USDA has announced following April prices at which it will make domestic sales CCC-held dairy products: nonfat dry milk solids, U. S. Extra Grade, spray process, 16.0 cents per pound, roller process, 14.25 cents; salted creamery butter, U. S. Grade A and higher, 60.5 cents, Grade B, 58.5 cents, in all states except N. Y., N.J., Pa, New England and other states bordering Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico; Cheddar Cheese U. S. Grade A and higher, 34½ cents per pound, Grade B, 33¼ cents, except in aforementioned states. CCC purchase prices beginning April 1 follow: Butter, Chicago Grade A or higher 57½ cents per pound, Grade B 55½ cents; Cheddar Cheese, Grade A or higher 32¼ cents; nonfat dry milk solids, U. S. Extra Grade, spray 15 cents, roller 13¼ cents. Prices announced in advance to provide more effective price support for dairy farmers' manufacturing milk in March and permit more orderly commercial distribution dairy products next six weeks.

During the week ended March 5, USDA bought 12,361,523 pounds of butter, 9,445,193 pounds of cheese, and 19,326,273 pounds of nonfat dry milk solids to support price of milk to dairy farmers.

USDA has announced revised proposed standards for grades of butter, about same as those first proposed in 1952. Revised standards expected to be made effective April 1 in order to avoid confusion after new support program in operation. Proposed standards are U.S. Grade AA or U.S. 93 Score, U.S. Grade A or U. S. 92 Score, U. S. Grade B or U. S. 90 Score, and U. S. Grade C or U. S. 89 Score. Interested parties have until March 22 to submit views and comments regarding proposal.

Sales of CCC owned butter for experimental use as extender for cocoa butter now total 210,000 pounds.

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USDA, UP TO FEBRUARY 26, HAD SHIPPED SOME 388,000  
TONS OF COTTONSEED FEEDS, NEARLY 557,000 TONS OF  
CORN, OVER 47,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND MORE THAN 213,000  
TONS OF OATS INTO DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS.

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## POULTRY AND EGGS

Poultry canned, or used in canning, during January totaled 15,591,000 pounds, against 17,260,000 pounds January 1953, and 12,703,000 for 1948-52 average. Federal inspectors certified 58,526,000 pounds in January, compared with 62,644,000 year earlier.

Frozen and dried egg production in January was 22 million pounds, up 15 million pounds from January 1953. Output dried eggs 5 million pounds, over five times larger than year earlier.

Indiana poultry and egg markets are reported each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday through new Federal-State market news service at Purdue University, W. Lafayette, Indiana. Reports available by mail. Address Poultry Department, Purdue University.



#### GRAINS

Farmers put a record 549,636,454 bushels 1953-crop wheat under price support, compared with previous high of 460,550 bushels of 1952-crop grain. Corn under support totaled 291,841,421 bushels, against 228,610,000 bushels 1952 crop grain.

USDA announces a national average support price of \$7.24 per hundred pounds for 1954 crop dry edible beans if CCC funds available. Price is 80 percent of February 15 parity price. Support price for U. S. No. 1 1953 crop beans ranged by classes from \$6.45 to \$11.80, based on national average of \$7.79. Up to February 15, farmers had 3,826,725 hundredweight of 1953 crop beans under support.

U. S. during period February 24 to March 2 sold 4,307,000 bushels of wheat under International Wheat Agreement, bringing sales for 1953-54 year to 83,731,000 bushels.

Sales of CCC-owned wheat for export under program announced last November have totaled 2,961,802 bushels, including sales of 835,702 bushels during two week period ended February 26.

\* \* \*

CCC LAST WEEK SOLD 140,000 GALLONS OF OLIVE OIL FOR EXPORT AND DOMESTIC USE. OIL WAS ACQUIRED BY CCC UNDER PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAMS.

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#### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

USDA has withdrawn proposed revised U. S. Standards for potatoes for lack of sufficient industry support of revisions.

Revised U. S. standards for watermelons, necessary to make them applicable to small ice-box type melons, go into effect March 22.

Revision in existing standards for topped carrots, proposed by USDA at request of carrot industry representatives. Major change is addition of U. S. Extra No. 1 grade.

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#### SUGAR

Refiners and importers distributed about 136,000 tons raw sugar during week ended February 27, about same amount as year earlier. Cumulative totals since January 1, 1,018,091 tons, against 1,122,317 same period in 1953.

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USDA IS PURCHASING AGENT FOR FIELD AND VEGETABLE SEEDS FOR EXPERIMENTAL PLANTING IN AFGHANISTAN. DEADLINE FOR OFFERS TO USDA IS MARCH 10.

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#### LIVESTOCK AND WOOL

USDA will continue using present grade names for live and dressed hogs, not ones proposed by Swine Industry Committee last December. Interested parties disagreed on proposed changes.

Mohair production in 7 principal producing states last year estimated by USDA at 12,572,000 pounds, 4 percent more than 1952 output, 29 percent less than 10 year average of 17,585,000 pounds. Cash receipts from 1953 output \$11,138,000, down 4 percent from \$11,660,000 in 1952.

Federally inspected packers week ended March 6 produced 347 million pounds meat, 11 percent more than preceding week which included holiday. Production slightly under year earlier, reflecting decrease nearly 14 million pounds pork. Output beef and veal larger than year ago.

Latest USDA report on livestock and meat situation predicts fewer cattle and hog marketings next few months, forecasts prices as high or higher than those last year. Big supply meat animals on farms January 1 expected to result in considerable meat in future, especially latter half this year and 1955.

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# Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Midwest Area Information Office

Agricultural Marketing Service  
536 S. Clark St., Chicago 5, Ill.

March 17, 1954

## FROZEN FOODS

Study of purchases of frozen and canned foods by representative families in all parts of the nation just reported by USDA in Marketing Research Report No. 60 "Purchases of Frozen and Canned Foods." Study covered 12 frozen and six canned foods and more than 2,000 families. Only 3 frozen items bought by more than half of families; orange juice, peas, and strawberries. Families with refrigerators bought about as much of these three foods as families with freezers, but families with no refrigeration bought much less. For peas, corn and snap beans, more families bought these in canned than in frozen form. Families with incomes under \$3,000 per year bought more canned foods; higher income families bought more canned corn, and more frozen foods. Northeastern families used most frozen foods, least canned foods; North Central and Southern families used least frozen foods. Compared with other regions, North Central families were in middle brackets in use of most canned foods.

\* \* \*

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION WILL OFFER 1,619 BALES OF KENAF FIBER FOR SALE ON MARCH 25. KENAF IS SUBSTITUTE FOR JUTE FOR SOME PURPOSES. OFFERS TO PURCHASE SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO DIRECTOR, COTTON BRANCH, COMMODITY STABILIZATION SERVICE, USDA, WASHINGTON 25, D.C. TO ARRIVE BEFORE 2 P.M. MARCH 25.

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## POULTRY

Retail merchants who took special training in how to display, price, and sell poultry and eggs through courses sponsored by USDA increased poultry and egg business \$53.35 per week, compared with retailers who took no training or made no changes in methods. Results just reported by Maryland Experiment Station, based on studies of 204 stores in Baltimore and Frederick, Maryland. Training classes conducted in 30 states by Poultry and Egg National Board, under contract with USDA, attended by approximately 18,000 retailers, butchers, and salesmen. Study made in Maryland to learn if project was worth while to merchants and to poultry industry.

Number of heavy breed turkeys tested for pullorum disease during February was 28% over same month last year, but total from July through February was 2% below number in same period year earlier. Number of light breed turkeys tested in February was up 40% over February last year, and number July-February increased 44% over year earlier. Pullorum testing indicates production capacity of turkey industry, but not necessarily actual intentions to produce turkeys during 1954.

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## DAIRY

USDA last week announced special arrangements on purchases of butter, cheese, and dry skim milk during remainder of March, recognizing complications caused by drop in level at which government will buy dairy products beginning April 1. To keep dairy products flowing to consumers dairy trade is permitted to sell during March and contract to buy back at lower price after April 1. Cheese and dry skim milk may be graded during April, with settlement based on final grade determinations. Cheese may be offered to government in more forms than usual.

USDA last week sold two additional carloads 60,000 pounds of butter to two chocolate companies, for experimental use as extender of cocoa butter. Price, 25 cents per pound.

USDA bought 12,492,194 pounds of butter, 11,079,384 pounds of cheese, and 17,753,991 pounds of dry skim milk last week to support milk prices to dairy farmers.

\* \* \*

ON JANUARY 31, CCC HAD OBLIGATED OVER \$6 BILLION IN INVENTORIES OR LOANS TO SUPPORT FARM PRICES. LOANS MADE UP \$3.4 BILLION OF TOTAL; INVENTORIES MADE UP \$2.6 BILLION. NET LOSS IN OPERATING PROGRAMS DURING 7 MONTHS SINCE LAST JULY 1 AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN \$128 MILLION; LOSS FOR ENTIRE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1953, WAS SLIGHTLY OVER \$61 MILLION.

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Net Change In Cold Storage Holdings During February

Cooler Commodities	Holdings Feb. 28 1,000 lb.	Net Change during Feb. 1,000 lb.	Freezer Commodities	Holdings Feb. 28 1,000 lb.	Net Change during Feb. 1,000 lb.
Apples	511,008	-206,256	Cream	5,771	-2,196
Pears	34,150	-23,800	Butter, creamery	309,040	-14,993
Other fresh fruits	46,283	-24,242	Eggs	40,830	-2,586
Fresh vegetables	109,266	-16,411	Poultry	240,576	-26,050
Dried & evap. fts.	32,711	-270	Fruits	290,718	-37,322
Nuts & nut meats	143,133	+21,684	Juices	331,533	+65,981
Cheese	427,118	-346	Vegetables	561,462	-68,739
Other dairy prod.	8,904	-12,180	Beef	201,607	-19,279
Shell eggs	6,120	+2,745	Veal	14,513	-3,510
Dried eggs	1,231	+158	Pork	292,564	+20,460
Beef	8,458	-527	Lamb and mutton	10,734	-726
Pork	113,576	-7,537	Edible offal	49,512	-8,329
Sausage	8,828	-348	Sausage	5,328	-494
Canned meats	44,608	+8,410	Miscellaneous	168,434	-26,555
Miscellaneous	240,668	-7,008			
Total	1,736,062	-265,928	Total	2,522,712	-89,180

GRAIN

USDA invites farmers to "reseal" 1953 crop grain now under price support, keeping it on farm for additional year rather than surrendering to government at end of first loan period. New program covers seven grains compared with four in past years: corn, wheat, oats, barley, grain sorghums, rye, flaxseed. Farmers offered several incentives to reseal grain on farms: (1) payment of approximately 12 cents per bushel in storage fees, approximately same as government would pay commercial warehouse (exact rates to be paid will be announced soon); (2) loans up to 80% of cost of new storage bins or buildings; (3) tax ruling which permits depreciation of cost of new grain storage space in five years.

Southern farmers have been assured of price support not less than \$4.92 per cwt. on rice grown in 1954. Represents 90% of parity.

U. S. will sell \$20 million worth of wheat to Spain, and will use money mainly for military construction in Spain.

USDA asking bids on fan and motor assemblies to be used in aerating grain to be stored in ships of "mothball fleet" on both East and West Coasts.

SINCE LAST JULY 1, U. S. HAS BARTERED ABOUT \$34 MILLION WORTH OF GRAIN AND OTHER FARM PRODUCTS FOR BLANKETS, FERTILIZER AND OTHER ITEMS NEEDED IN FOREIGN PROGRAMS OF U. S. GOVERNMENT. FERTILIZER IS BIGGEST ITEM IN RECENT DEALS. UNDER TYPICAL TRANSACTION, U. S. GRAIN GOES TO JAPAN IN EXCHANGE FOR JAPANESE FERTILIZER SHIPPED TO KOREA WHERE U. S. IS ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE FARMING CONDITIONS.

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FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Southern states producing one and half million tons of vegetables for winter market this year, 4% below last year but 3% above 1949-52 average. Compared with last winter, more sweet corn, lettuce, and tomatoes, less cabbage, carrots, celery. Acreage of spring vegetables is 1% above last year, with more asparagus and tomatoes, less lettuce and onion plantings. Little damage reported from frost in northern Florida during first week of March; delayed harvest expected to be principal effect, rather than reduced production.

Special reports on crops for processing indicates plantings of green peas will be 2% less than last year; spinach (California and Texas) will be down 11%.

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# Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Midwest Area Information Office

Agricultural Marketing Service  
536 S. Clark St., Chicago 5, Ill.

March 24, 1954

## POULTRY

USDA economists expect egg prices to remain below last year's levels for next few months, because of heavier production. However, poultry looks more profitable than most other kinds of farm production and farmers expected to raise more pullets than last year.

Hatcheries turned out nearly 191 million baby chicks during February, record for month, slightly ahead of February, 1952. Number of chicks hatched for broilers, up 7% from year ago, number for laying flock replacement up 17%. Eggs in incubators March 1, 10% over year ago. Number of turkey poult of heavy breeds hatched during February was up 12%, light breed poult up 40% over year ago.

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DROUGHT RELIEF DISCONTINUED FOR THREE ISLANDS IN HAWAII, BUT WILL CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER MONTH IN TWO OTHER ISLANDS. HAWAII HAS RECEIVED 1,218 TONS OF FEED, VALUED AT \$54,900. EMERGENCY FEED SHIPMENTS INTO 22 FLOODED COUNTIES OF FLORIDA ALSO STOPPED LAST WEEK, AFTER SHIPMENT OF 21,528 TONS OF FEED VALUED AT \$739,100. SHIPMENTS OF FEED INTO REMAINING 17 STATES ARE CONTINUING; DURING WEEK ENDED MARCH 12 TOTALED 36,116 TONS, MOSTLY CORN. TOTAL SINCE LAST SUMMER, OVER 1.4 MILLION TONS.

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## GRAINS AND SEEDS

Minimum price support rates on 1954 corn crop will be based on 90% of parity, or \$1.62 per bushel, compared with \$1.60 per bushel on 1953 crop. Full rate will be allowed in commercial corn area, which includes much of Midwest. In non-commercial corn area, support level will be 75% of commercial rate, averaging about \$1.22 per bushel. Rate for each county to be announced later.

Loans to help farmers provide own storage for grains and seeds have been extended to June 30, 1955. Loans may cover up to 80% of cost of storage structure, bear 4% interest, repayable over 4 year period. Similar loans available for grain drying equipment, up to 75% of cost, repayable over 3 years. Loans available through county ASC committees. USDA encouraging farmers and commercial warehouse firms to increase storage space, anticipating record amounts of grain on hand this summer and fall when crops are harvested, adding to tremendous carryover from previous years.

Sales of CCC wheat for export during two week period ended March 11 were 6.4 million bushels, making total of 9.6 million bushels sold since export allowance program started November 19.

U.S. sold 1,726,000 bushels of wheat to other countries under International Wheat Agreement during week of March 10-16. Total since last June 30, over 87 million bushels.

USDA will hold hearing in Milwaukee on April 2 to receive opinions on proposed changes in Federal standards for western barley used in brewing. Written opinions may be submitted to Director, Grain Division, CSS, USDA, Washington, before April 9.

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CORN GROWERS PLAN TO PLANT ALMOST AS MUCH CORN IN 1954 AS IN 1953, DESPITE CORN ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS CALLING FOR ABOUT 17% REDUCTION IN COMMERCIAL CORN AREA. WHEAT ACREAGE WILL BE CUT ABOUT 24%, IN LINE WITH ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS. ACREAGE OF SOYBEANS WILL BE UP 12% AND FLAX UP 47% IF FARMERS CARRY OUT INTENTIONS REPORTED TO USDA ON MARCH 1.

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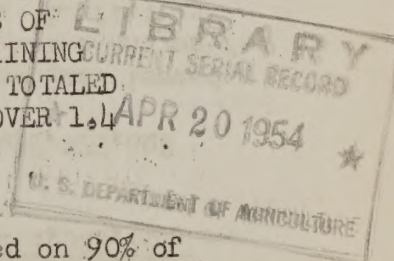
## LIVESTOCK

Meat production for March 16-20 estimated at 338 million lbs., 3% below week earlier, slightly above year ago. Cattle slaughter down 2% from previous week but 11% above year ago. Hog slaughter 4% below previous week and 11% below year ago. In recent weeks, total meat production has been close to year ago, with more cattle and fewer hogs being slaughtered.

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## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Set aside order in effect since 1951 canceled effective April 1, so canners of fruits and vegetables no longer required to hold part of pack for purchase by Army Quartermaster.





# FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Federal license for Delbima Fruit and Produce Co., New Orleans, revoked by USDA for failure to pay DeBruyn Seed and Produce Co., Zeeland, Michigan, for 400 crates of celery last fall. Delbima Company barred from produce business until debt is paid and license is restored.

British government has arranged to buy \$5 million worth of U.S. citrus fruit and canned peaches and apricots during next six months, in addition to prunes and raisins already bought in U. S. Sale arranged by USDA and Foreign Operations Administration.

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BEEKEEPERS REPORT GOOD WINTERING OF BEES. HOWEVER, MILD WEATHER ENCOURAGED MORE ACTIVITY AND HEAVIER CONSUMPTION OF STORES, REQUIRING FEEDING. DRY WINTER IN SOUTHERN PLAINS AND IN MOST OF MIDWEST INDICATES POSSIBLE SCARCITY OF CLOVERS AND OTHER BLOSSOMS.

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## DAIRY

Milk prices went down, to farmers and to consumers, during early March in most fluid milk markets. Home delivered milk average 22.8 cents per quart in 25 cities, down one-tenth cent from February and down four-tenths from year ago. Milk dealers paid farmers an average of \$4.97 per cwt. for Class I milk, 6 cents less than in February and 30 cents less than year ago.

USDA last week announced purchases and disposition of dairy products during 1952-53 and 11 months of 1953-54, as follows:

Purchases	Butter (Pounds)	Cheddar Cheese (Pounds)	Nonfat Dry Milk Solids (Pounds)
1952-53 (Apr. 1, '52-March 31, '53)	143,348,182	75,236,130	210,410,097
1953-54 (Apr. 1, '53-Feb. 28, '54)	293,999,942	274,454,839	536,655,461
	437,348,124	349,690,969	747,065,558
Uses			
Commercial Sales	3,694,199	8,484,742	64,970
Export Sales	---	465,000	136,506,180
Section 32 Outlets	87,143,604	21,047,168	19,341,619
Section 416 Donations	42,388,560	18,757,750	87,392,880
U. S. Army Sales	18,132,587	---	6,830,765
Other Disposals 1/	493,410	---	1,253,295
	151,852,360	48,754,660	251,389,709
Estimated Supplies As of March 1, 1954	285,495,764	300,936,309	495,675,848

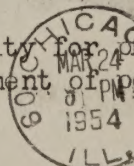
Dairy Division of Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, has just issued mimeographed leaflet "Butter Oil". Butter oil made by removing water and non-fat materials from butter or cream, leaving almost pure butter fat. Leaflet is principally review of literature reporting experiments in manufacture of product, with some information on uses and keeping qualities. Also reports on "Ghee," food product similar to butter oil, common in Middle East.

USDA HAS INVITED DAIRY PROCESSORS TO BID ON REPACKAGING OF 720,000 POUNDS OF BUTTER, 900,450 POUNDS OF NONFAT DRY MILK SOLIDS, AND PROCESSING 750,000 POUNDS OF CHEDDAR CHEESE, ALL OWNED BY GOVERNMENT, INTENDED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOL LUNCH, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, WELFARE AND SIMILAR OUTLETS.

USDA has sold two additional carlots of butter to chocolate companies at 25 cents per pound, for experimental use as extender for cocoa butter.

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# Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Midwest Area Information Office

Agricultural Marketing Service  
536 S. Clark St., Chicago 5, Ill.

March 31, 1954

## DAIRY

Cheese makers took advantage of USDA buy-back plan on dairy products last week, by selling and contracting to repurchase 33.3 million pounds of cheese. Butter sales on buy-back contracts were 446,410 pounds. Sales to government were made on basis of 90% of parity prices, up to March 31; repurchases were based on 75% of parity, which will be support level beginning April 1. In addition to buy-back purchases, USDA last week bought following amounts of dairy products under regular price-support program; 15.6 million pounds of butter, 15.9 mil. lbs. of cheese, 23.1 million pounds of nonfat dry milk solids. Butter production in nation during week of March 19-25 was 32.1 million pounds; cheese production previous week was 19.8 million pounds.

SECRETARY BENSON THIS WEEK ANNOUNCED PROMOTION CAMPAIGN BY USDA AND DAIRY INDUSTRY TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED CONSUMPTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS. FARMERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO CULL OUT LOW PRODUCING DAIRY COWS.

Dairy farmers will get lower prices for milk used in manufactured products in several markets regulated by Federal order. Farmers already have approved cuts in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Fort Wayne. Producers supplying Chicago, Milwaukee to vote soon.

Continuing dry weather in Kansas City area and high cost of milk production prompted USDA to suspend usual practice, provided in Federal order, of holding out 40¢ per cwt. during April to be added to dairy farmers' milk checks in fall.

New Federal standards for butter go into effect April 1. Cooking Grade eliminated. Other changes are minor.

USDA has contracted to buy 900,450 pounds of dry skim milk in 4½ pound packages; also for reprocessing 750,000 pounds of government-owned cheddar cheese into five-pound loaves, and repackaging 720,000 pounds of butter into one-pound prints. Products will go to school lunch program, public institutions.

\* \* \*

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Three-fold approach to problem of surplus potatoes announced last week by U.S.D.A.: (1) Consumer campaign, enlisting help of distributors, radio, press, television, April 1-10; (2) Limited government purchases of '53 crop potatoes, to be distributed to school lunch program, public institutions, etc. (3) payments of 35¢ per cwt. to processors for using potatoes in starch and flour. Details to be announced soon. No potatoes will be bought unless schools and institutions can use them. Secretary of Agriculture indicated purchases would be limited to areas where growers intend to keep acreage within acreage guides recommended by USDA.

USDA last week reported on onion situation in several foreign countries, with indications that Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic may import some U.S. onions. Mexico also exports to U.S.

New standards issued for cucumber pickles, replacing standards in use since 1938, after consultation with packing industry.

Standards proposed for dehydrated apples for first time, covering two grades of pie pieces, flakes, wedges, and sauce pieces. Interested persons may express opinions to Fruit and Vegetable Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

\* \* \*

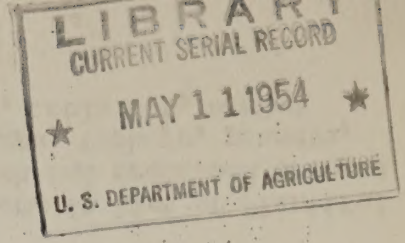
U.S. HAS BARTERED ANOTHER \$1.6 MILLION WORTH OF GOVERNMENT OWNED FARM PRODUCTS FOR FERTILIZER PRODUCED IN GERMANY, AUSTRIA, JAPAN TO BE SHIPPED TO KOREA. SINCE 1949 U.S. HAS BARTERED FOR ABOUT \$109 MILLION WORTH OF PRODUCTS, INCLUDING \$74 MILLION IN STRATEGIC MATERIALS AND \$35 MILLION WORTH OF PRODUCTS FOR FOREIGN AID.

\* \* \*

## PLENTIFUL FOODS

Potatoes, broiler chickens, dairy foods are feature items in list of Plentiful Foods for Midwest in April. Other Plentifuls include fresh and processed oranges and grapefruit, cabbage, cranberry sauce, onions, beef, eggs, turkeys, peanuts, peanut butter, salad oils, vegetable shortenings, raisins, table fat, canned sweet corn.





FOREIGN TRADE

Midwest is represented on four agricultural missions to foreign lands to study possibilities of increased trade with U. S. Dean H. J. Reed, Purdue University, heads mission to Latin America, with A. B. Sparboe, Millers National Federation, Minneapolis; and Milo K. Swanton, Wisconsin Council of Agricultural Cooperatives, Madison, as two members. J. S. Russell, farm editor of Des Moines Register-Tribune is member of mission to Asia. Berry Akers, editor, The Farmer, St. Paul, and George M. Strayer, Hudson, Iowa, American Soybean Association, on mission to Northern Europe. P. O. Wilson, Chicago, National Livestock Producers Association, on mission to Southern Europe. Total of 34 agricultural leaders on four missions.

\*\*\*\*\*

USDA INVITES MANUFACTURERS TO OFFER BIDS ON GRAIN STORAGE TOTALING 100 MILLION BUSHELS CAPACITY TO BE BOUGHT BY CCC, DELIVERED DURING MAY. COMMERCIAL WAREHOUSE FIRMS PLAN 200 MILLION BUSHELS NEW STORAGE CAPACITY WITH CCC GUARANTEEING TO USE. FARMERS OFFERED INDUCEMENTS TO BUILD MORE STORAGE.

\*\*\*

FATS AND OILS

American homemakers used more detergents than soaps in 1953 for first time. Since 1945, use of detergents has increased from 1 to 13 pounds per person; use of soap has dropped from 23 pounds to 11 pounds. USDA reports nonfood uses of fats and oils in 1953 was lowest per person since 1938; 8 pounds in soap, 5.7 pounds in paint and varnish, 7.4 pounds in plastics, synthetic rubber, lubricants and other products.

USDA forecasts high prices for soybeans this spring and summer, encouraging increased acreage and record production of soybeans in fall, with record total supply of food fats (soybean and cottonseed oil, butter, lard) when inventory is made on October 1.

\*\*\*

SUGAR

USDA has increased nation's sugar quota by 200,000 tons, to 8,200,000 tons, of which 1,800,000 tons will come from domestic beets and 500,000 tons will come from cane grown on mainland. Most of increase is in quota to be imported from Cuba, which provides about one-third of sugar used in U.S.

Sugar beet producers must pay workers same minimum wages as in 1953 to be eligible for government payments authorized by Sugar Act. Piecework rates left to workers and employers, with hourly rates set at 65¢ for thinning, hoeing, and weeding, and 70¢ for harvesting.

\*\*\*

POULTRY

Federal fees for grading and inspecting eggs, poultry, and rabbits increase April 1, with increases averaging about 10%. Congress requires these services to be self-supporting, with sellers, purchasers, or packagers paying fees to cover costs of inspecting and grading. Service is entirely voluntary.

\*\*\*

FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO UNDERWRITE COST OF LAND CHISELING, DEEP TILLAGE, OTHER PRACTICES TO REDUCE SOIL BLOWING IN SOUTHWEST. USDA WOULD BUY COUNTY TAX WARRANTS TO BE REDEEMED LATER AFTER TAXES ARE COLLECTED COVERING COST OF LAND TREATMENT.

\*\*\*

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

Meat production last week was 333 million pounds, 2% below previous week, but slightly above year earlier. Hog slaughter smallest since last September, reflecting small pig crop last fall. Cattle slaughter, 330,000 head, 1% above previous week, and 18% above year earlier. Production of pork was 128 million pounds, beef, 176 million pounds.

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# Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Midwest Area Information Office

Agricultural Marketing Service  
536 S. Clark St., Chicago 5, Ill.

AGRICULTURE  
April 13, 1954

## GRAINS

Winter wheat crop for '54, based on conditions of April 1, estimated at 678 million bushels, compared with 877 million bushels harvested last year; yield per acre estimated at 14.6 bushels, compared with average of 15.4 last year. Drought in Kansas, Colorado, Texas responsible for poor prospects.

Through mid-March, 332 million bushels of '53 crop corn had been put under Government price support, compared with 270 million bushels year earlier. Farmers may put last year's corn under price support to end of May. Most corn ever put under support was 550 million bushels, out of '48 crop. Total of 1,085 million bushels of all major grains put under price support.

USDA sold 1.9 million bushels of wheat for export last week, making total of 13.7 million bushels sold for export since November 19.

Five men arrested in recent weeks for stealing grain from USDA bins in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa. USDA offers rewards for information concerning thefts, which resulted in loss of about 23,000 bushels of grain during winter months. Also has enlisted cooperation of local and state police officials.

"A TRAIN LOADED WITH ALL OF THE WHEAT, CORN, FLAXSEED, SOYBEANS, AND SMALL GRAINS IN WHICH CCC FUNDS ARE TODAY INVESTED WOULD BE 8,123 MILES LONG. IT WOULD REACH ONE-THIRD OF THE WAY AROUND THE WORLD."

---Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of  
Agriculture

\*\*\*

## DAIRY

Butter and cheese moved both into and out of USDA hands last week, first week of new, lower prices which went into effect April 1. USDA bought 139,314 pounds of butter and sold 879,934 pounds to dairy trade; bought 215,967 pounds of cheese and sold 5,430,705 pounds; bought 1,559,650 pounds of nonfat dry milk solids, with no sales.

Cheese and dry milk solids owned by government offered for sale to exporters at prices low enough to compete on world market, 25.5¢ for top grade cheese, 11.75¢ for spray process solids.

USDA proposes changes in Twin Cities milk market order, to tie prices more closely to prices in Chicago; in Tri-State area (Ohio, Ky., W.Va.) several changes proposed in pricing system.

Cheese production, week of March 26-April 1, estimated at 20.9 million pounds, 3% above week earlier, 6% above year ago. Butter production, week of April 2-8, 31.6 million pounds, reversing usual upward trend for this season, 3% below previous week, but 4% above year ago.

Nation's dairy cows produced 10.7 billion pounds of milk in March, compared with 10.1 billion year earlier and 9.6 billion average.

Pasture conditions on April 1 estimated at 73% of normal compared with 81% last April 1. Generally good in northern states, poor in southern and southwestern states.

Midwest firms will provide USDA with 1.8 million pounds of nonfat dry milk solids in 4½ pound packages, will re-process 1.5 million pounds of government-owned cheese into five-pound loaves, and will re-package 1.4 million pounds of government owned butter, to be distributed to schools and public institutions.

\*\*\*

TOTAL OF 7.2 MILLION PEOPLE WORKING ON FARMS DURING LAST WEEK OF MARCH, ABOUT 850,000 MORE THAN MONTH EARLIER, ABOUT NORMAL INCREASE FOR SEASON, BUT MARCH TOTAL WAS 2% BELOW YEAR AGO. WAGE RATES AVERAGED ABOUT SAME AS YEAR AGO.

\*\*\*

## POULTRY

Nation's chickens laid 6.6 billion eggs during March, compared with 6.2 billion year earlier and average of 6.4 billion.

World population of chickens increased during 1953 with notable increases in Japan, Philippines, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Increases made also in U.S., Ireland, Sweden and Yugoslavia; decrease in Britain. Egg production went up in '52 and '53, approaching peak reached in '50.

U.S. exports of poultry products last year made up principally of baby chicks and eggs. Valued at approximately \$32 million, about 1% of total income from poultry, and 1% of value of all agricultural exports. Shell eggs exported valued at \$20 million. About 13 million baby chicks exported, mostly from Florida, California, New York and Texas, to Venezuela and Mexico.



## FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Acreage of early potatoes (winter, early spring, late spring) estimated 25% below last year, when crop was record large. Heaviest reduction in late spring areas from Carolinas to California, with only Texas and Mississippi planting as many acres as last year.

Acreage of principal vegetables for processing expected to be down 3% from last year. More snap beans and spinach, less cabbage, sweet corn, green peas. Minnesota expected to have bigger acreage of sweet corn; Wisconsin and Illinois will have less. New York, Wisconsin, Maryland will increase plantings of snap beans; only Florida, among leading states, has smaller acreage.

About 47 million boxes of oranges still to be harvested, on April 1, about 10 million boxes below year ago at same time; most of decrease in California. Florida had total crop of Valencias about 20% larger than last season, but remainder to be harvested on April 1 was about same as year earlier.

USDA has issued standards for tomato sauce, to be effective May 10; has proposed changes in standards for radishes, to apply to topped as well as bunched radishes; has proposed adding second, lower grade for carrots packed in film bags.

PEACH PROSPECTS IN 10 SOUTHERN STATES ESTIMATED AT 61%  
OF FULL CROP, 19 POINTS BELOW LAST YEAR ON APRIL 1.  
FREEZING WEATHER AT BLOSSOM TIME IN SEVERAL STATES  
BLAMED FOR POOR CONDITION.

\* \* \*

## FATS AND OILS

USDA Commodity Office at New Orleans last week offered to sell 698 million pounds of refined cottonseed oil at 12-1/8¢ per pound, for export. 15 million pounds of crude oil offered on bid basis.

Also offered to sell about 27,000 tons of cottonseed meal and cake, containing 36 and 41% protein. Previously, most of government's cottonseed feed for livestock produced by crushing cottonseed taken through price support program, has been consigned to drought relief program. Over 600,000 tons shipped for this purpose since last summer.

\* \* \*

## BEEES

Beekeepers reported first of April that colonies had survived winter in good condition, although many will have to be fed until blossom season begins. Lack of moisture through much of area from Atlantic to Rockies causes beekeepers to fear limited production of nectar which could interfere with pollination of legume and fruit crops by bees.

\* \* \*

## LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

World population of cattle estimated by USDA at 856 million, increase of about 7 million in past year. U. S. has 94 million, Russia (in Europe and Asia) about 56 million, Brazil about 56 million.

U. S. HOG PRICES ROSE LAST WEEK TO HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE  
SUMMER OF 1948, TOPPING \$28 PER CWT. AT SEVERAL MARKETS.  
HIGH PRICES REFLECT SMALLER THAN USUAL SUPPLY OF HOGS  
FROM FALL CROP.

World hog population estimated at 301 million, 2% below year earlier. Drop in U.S. accounts for most of world decrease. U.S. had 48 million on January 1 compared with 54 million year earlier. Europe has 78 million, Russia 28 million, Asia, 81 million, South America, 41 million hogs.

Meat production under Federal inspection for week of April 5-10, 329 million pounds, 1% below previous week, 1% above year ago. Cattle slaughter of 325,000 head 2% below previous week, 9% above year ago, but larger proportion of cows and lighter steers held down production of beef. Hog slaughter was 904,000, 2% below previous week and 12% below year ago.

\* \* \*

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# Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Midwest Area Information Office

Agricultural Marketing Service  
536 S. Clark St., Chicago 5, Ill.

April 21, 1954

## GRAINS

U.S. sold 968,000 bushels of wheat during week of April 7-13 under International Wheat Agreement; slightly more than half in form of flour. Greece, Philippines, Norway principal buyers. Total sales since last June 30, 92 million bushels out of 209 million bushel quota.

USDA has contracted for grain storage structures with total capacity of 100 million bushels, mostly with Midwest corporations. About 69 million bushels will be in form of round metal bins, holding about 3,250 bushels each; 22 million bushels will be in flat structures 40 X 100 feet, holding about 41,000 bushels each; 9 million bushels in form of wooden bins holding about 9,500 bushels each.

GRAIN STORAGE HANDBOOK ISSUED LAST WEEK BY USDA  
INFORMING FARMERS OF ASSISTANCE IN FORM OF LOANS AND  
STORAGE PAYMENTS, TAX AMORTIZATION AND OTHER BENEFITS  
TO FARMER WHO ADDS GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY ON OWN FARM.

\*\*\*

## DAIRY

State, Federal or local governments regulate prices of about half of fluid milk sold in U. S. In Midwest, Federal orders govern marketing of milk in most principal cities and determine prices received by producers only. In East, South, and West, several states have regulations governing retail as well as producer prices. Government role in milk marketing reviewed in April 16 issue of "The Dairy Situation" issued by AMS.

USDA offers to sell butter to U. S. exporters who will ship equivalent amounts of butterfat to foreign countries to be combined with dry skim milk and reconstituted into whole milk. Exporters will bid on USDA-owned butter and USDA will announce acceptances each Tuesday and Friday. Hope expressed that new program will result in moving increased amounts of dairy products into consumption overseas.

Dairy processors invited to bid on reprocessing 750,000 pounds of government-owned cheddar cheese in 5 pound loaves and to either repackage 1,296,648 pounds of government-owned nonfat dry milk solids or to supply milk powder in 4½ pound packages.

At request of cheese industry, which hopes to encourage increased use in food products, USDA has proposed standards for dry whey. Opinions may be submitted to USDA until May 18.

Retail prices of fluid milk decreased in about one-third of nation's cities in early April. Prices received by producers will not be determined finally until end of month, but are expected to be lower as result of drop in government support levels.

In contrast to first full week of April, when sales exceeded purchases, during week of April 12-16, USDA bought 2,733,169 pounds of butter, 776,617 pounds of cheese and 9,720,277 pounds of nonfat dry milk solids, and sold 68,896 pounds of butter and 810,533 pounds of cheese.

\*\*\*

TYPICAL U.S. RESIDENT USED THREE TIMES AS MUCH FROZEN  
CONCENTRATED FRUIT JUICE IN APRIL-SEPTEMBER 1953 AS IN  
SAME PERIOD OF 1950: USED TWICE AS MANY ORANGES AS FRUIT  
AND CONCENTRATED JUICE, MORE TOMATO AND PINEAPPLE JUICE;  
LESS CANNED ORANGE JUICE.

\*\*\*

## POULTRY

Number of light-breed turkeys tested for pullorum disease in March in U.S. was up 230%; heavy breeds, down 12%, compared with year ago. Total tested from July through March showed 2% decrease for heavy breeds, 49% increase for light breeds. Heavy birds outnumber light by ration of 3 to 1. Pullorum testing gives indication of number of breeding birds in nation's turkey flock.

\*\*\*

## FERTILIZER

USDA expects 6 million tons of plant food nutrients to be available for 1954 farming, about 2% more than last year. Tonnage of fertilizer may be slightly smaller because farmers and manufacturers putting more emphasis on concentrated fertilizers. Supply of nitrogen expected to be about 1.9 million tons, 6% above year ago; phosphate forecast at 2.3 million tons, down about 4% from year ago; potash supply expected to be 1.8 million tons, 5% above last year. Imports make up about 23% of nitrogen supply.



# COLD STORAGE

Nation's supplies of butter rose to all-time record of 349 million pounds on March 31, about 90% owned by government. Movement of beef out of storage was about three times as great as usual, but stocks at end of month were still above average. Holdings on March 31 were 1.5 million pounds in coolers and 2.47 million pounds in freezers.

## Net changes in storage holdings during March

Cooler	Holdings	Net Change	Freezer	Holdings	Net Change
Commodities	Mar. 31	during March	Commodities	Mar. 31	during March
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.		1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
Apples	296,928	-215,664	Cream	4,829	-1,032
Pears	13,250	-19,650	Butter, creamery	348,726	44,493
Other fresh fruits	17,671	-24,435	Eggs	90,602	48,963
Fresh vegetables	104,121	-16,398	Poultry	213,260	-28,432
Dried & evap. fts.	32,322	-349	Fruits	251,028	-42,557
Nuts & nut meats	152,268	11,252	Juices	348,743	6,702
Cheese	449,612	24,955	Vegetables	506,941	-55,640
Other dairy prod.	7,653	-1,492	Beef	165,017	-31,409
Shell eggs	19,980	13,905	Veal	13,071	-611
Dried eggs	1,560	275	Pork	302,252	4,574
Beef	8,957	63	Lamb & mutton	9,718	-1,090
Pork	117,826	1,997	Edible offal	47,567	-1,569
Sausage	9,613	514	Sausage	5,198	-544
Canned meats	53,802	6,006	Miscellaneous	166,968	-15,029
Miscellaneous	236,204	-1,424			
Total	1,521,767	-220,445	Total	2,473,920	-73,181

\*\*\*

HEAVY RAINS IN LOWER VALLEY OF TEXAS APRIL 8-14  
 RUINED ABOUT 10,000 ACRES OF VEGETABLE CROPS NEARING  
 HARVEST, MOSTLY TOMATOES, SWEET CORN, CANTALOUPS, BUT  
 BENEFITED. VEGETABLES PLANTED LATER AND IN OTHER AREAS  
 WHERE RAINS WERE LIGHTER.

\*\*\*

# FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

New Federal standards issued for several fruits and vegetables: Green corn for fresh market, effective May 18, includes new third grade. Frozen apples, effective May 17. Frozen mixed vegetables, effective May 24, includes third grade and gives percentage of different colors in lima beans which may be included.

Philippines, which took 100,000 bags of U. S. onions last year, expected to be poor market this year because government will not permit dollars to be spent for onions.

USDA report from Australia indicates that country will export most of canned peaches, pears and apricots and fresh pears to Britain; Britain will get more of its apples from Japan, South Africa, New Zealand.

\*\*\*

# LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Midwest cattle feeders bought about 50% more cattle and put them on feed during January-March this year than in same period of last year, but number on feed April 1 was about 1% below year earlier. Number of cattle on feed January 1 was 10% below figure for year earlier. About 46% expected to be marketed before July 1. Feeder cattle bought at principal markets during first three months cost average of \$19.19 per hundred pounds, compared with \$16.23 during last July-December and \$20.81 in January-March of last year.

MEAT PRODUCTION UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION DURING WEEK  
 ENDING APRIL 17 ESTIMATED AT 314 MILLION POUNDS, SMALLEST  
 OF YEAR, 5% BELOW PREVIOUS WEEK AND YEAR AGO, 25% BELOW  
 MID-JANUARY. DECREASED SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE, HOGS, AND  
 SHEEP.

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# Food Marketing NEWSLETTER

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Midwest Area Information Office

Agricultural Marketing Service  
536 S. Clark St., Chicago 5, Ill.

April 28, 1954

## PLENTIFUL FOODS

Dairy products, raisins, potatoes are featured items for May in Midwest. Other items are home-grown asparagus, radishes, green onions, spinach, rhubarb, broiler and fryer chickens, turkeys, eggs, beef, fresh and processed oranges and grapefruit, onions, tomatoes, vegetable fats and oils. USDA enlists cooperation of retailers, restaurants, editors, broadcasters in encouraging increased consumption.

\*\*\*

USDA OFFERS TO SELL NONFAT DRY MILK SOLIDS TO MANUFACTURERS OF ANIMAL FEEDS AT  $3\frac{1}{2}$  CENTS PER POUND, TO MOVE PART OF GOVERNMENT OWNED SURPLUS AND FILL IN SHORTAGE OF PROTEIN CAUSED BY SHORTAGE OF SOYBEANS.

\*\*\*

## DAIRY

USDA bought 4,884,067 pounds of butter, 3,559,572 pounds of cheese, and 11,802,946 pounds of nonfat dry milk solids during week of April 19-23. Sales during same week consisted of 935,608 pounds of cheese, re-sold to trade. Purchases largest since support prices reduced April 1.

Midwest firms awarded government contracts last week for reprocessing 750,000 pounds of cheddar cheese and providing 1,296,648 pounds of nonfat dry milk solids in small containers for school lunch and welfare distribution. Since July, 1953, USDA has distributed over 17 million pounds of nonfat dry milk solids for school lunch and welfare purposes.

Production of butter during week ending April 22 was 32.5 million pounds, 3% above previous week, 1% above year ago. Production of American cheese 23.5 million pounds, 6% above year ago and 5% above previous week.

Ice cream output during March estimated at 46 million gallons, second highest on record, for month.

\*\*\*

## AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

U.S. farm exports in February were valued at \$236 million, 9% above year ago and 15% over January. Post war pattern for farm exports shows slight recovery in February over year-end low, but this year's February shipments increased more than usual. July-February exports of \$1,905 million were 1% below last year.

Sharp rise in cotton, from 308,000 bales in January to 401,000 in February, led expansion. Rice shipments of 201 million compared with 141 million in February, 1953. Fats and oils exports continued at record levels, up 45% from last year. Wheat shipments were  $\frac{1}{3}$  above January but still well below year ago.

February imports of farm products competitive with U.S. production, declined by \$17 million. Greater use of domestic wools reflected by 11 million lbs. of imports, compared with 30 million a year earlier. Imports of beef, pork, copra, and potatoes however, increased.

\*\*\*

POULTRYMEN ON USDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED AGAINST FEDERAL PRICE SUPPORT OR SUBSIDY ON EGGS. TURKEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FEARS OVERPRODUCTION IN 1954 AND ADVISES GROWERS TO MARKET MORE BIRDS EARLY.

\*\*\*

## POULTRY

Commercial hatcheries set new record for chick production in March with over 310 million chicks hatched, compared with 277 million year ago. Strong demand for chicks for laying flocks and broiler production, up about 17% and 4% respectively from year ago. For first three months of this year, 18% more chicks for laying flocks, 6% more for broilers.

Number of turkey poults hatched during March was up 5% from year ago for both heavy and light breeds. In first three months of year, heavy poult production was 13.5 million, 9% above year ago; light breed poults, 5.2 million, 37% above year ago. On April 1, almost 22 million heavy breed eggs in incubators; 3 million eggs of light breeds.

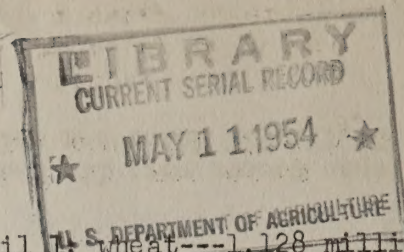
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## FATS AND OILS

CCC sold 5.5 million pounds of raw linseed oil from stocks acquired under 1952 price support program for flaxseed. Sales now total 125,473,100 pounds since January 1, 1954.

\*\*\*





-2-

## GRAINS

Stocks of grains in all positions April 11: wheat---1,128 million bus.; corn, 1,988 million bus.; oats, 494 million bus.; barley, 122 million bus.; rye, 18.4 million bus.

Wheat stocks April 1 largest for date in 20 years, 1/4 larger than previous record of 1943. Corn topped previous record stocks of April 1, 1952 by 2%. Oats nearly 10 million bus. under year earlier and smaller for date in all but three years since 1943.

Barley stocks up 25% from last year but smaller than in 7 of previous 10 years. Rye in store most for date since 1945 and compares with 6.8 million bus. a year earlier.

Sales of grains by CCC week ended April 16 totaled 1,637,833 bus. Sales included 1,148,334 bus. for export (325,838 bus. under export sales program, balance under barter contracts for strategic materials); 275,389 bus. domestic sales; 67,412 bus. shipped for drought relief; and 146,698 bus. unsuitable for further storage.

U. S. WHEAT ACREAGE ESTIMATED 19% BELOW 1948-53  
AVERAGE, REFLECTING GENERAL COMPLIANCE WITH  
ACREAGE ALLOTMENT PROGRAM.

U.S. sold 2,574,000 bushels of wheat during the week of April 14-20 under the International Wheat Agreement; 268,000 bushels in the form of flour. Germany was principal buyer. Total sales since June 30 amount to 95,392,000 bushels.

Official standards for wheat and barley changed, effective August 2. Only change in wheat relates to reporting dockage for smut. New barley regulations prohibit weevil, heat or mold damage in western malting grades, and change limitations on certain defects. Changes were made after public hearings and opinions from people in grain business.

USDA rejected all bids on government-owned hairy vetch seed to be sold for export. Bids ranged from \$2.05 to \$3.15 per cwt., compared with \$14.40 to \$15.30 paid by government under price support program.

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## FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Federal marketing agreement and order governing marketing of Florida avocados prepared by U.S.D.A.. Producers must approve in referendum before order is put into effect.

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COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION HAS REDUCED RATES TO BE PAID TO COUNTRY BANKS WHICH FINANCE PRICE SUPPORT LOANS ON GRAINS. RATE ON 1954 CROPS WILL BE 2.25% COMPARED WITH 3% PREVIOUSLY PAID, INCLUDING 0.5% SERVICE CHARGE. WHERE BANK DOES NOT INVEST OWN FUNDS, SERVICE PAYMENTS WILL BE ON SAME SLIDING SCALE AS PREVIOUSLY.

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## LIVESTOCK, MEAT, AND WOOL

Meat production under federal inspection week ended April 24 estimated 318 million pounds, up 1% from preceding week but 5% under year ago. Output included (million lbs.): beef, 169.3; veal, 15.6; pork, 121.4; lamb and mutton, 11.5. Lard production 30 million lbs., compared with 28.9 million previous week, and 32.6 million last year.

U.S. imports meat last year slightly below 1952. Imports more than twice as great as exports. More pork products imported last year than exported--first time in U.S. history. Meat imports totaled 312 million lbs., about 1.3% of total meat consumption.

World wool consumption in 1953 estimated 2.6 billion lbs., clean basis, 11% greater than 1952.

World hog population has declined past two years. Now estimated 301 million head. Biggest decreases in U.S., Brazil, Eastern Europe.

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